

## WILD LIFE PRESERVATION IN INDIA<sup>1</sup>

BY

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During the past sixty-five years there have appeared in our journal no less than eighty references of one kind and another on the subject of protection of wild birds and animals, the abolition of the plumage trade, the conservation of game birds and animals, the preservation of game and wild life. There have been the Society's proceedings, reports by the honorary secretaries, editorials and contributed articles. Generally, through the pages of the *Journal* the Society has greatly contributed to bring about such legislation as has been enacted during this long period.

Prominent among the protagonists for the protection and conservation of wild life have been the late Theodore Hubback whose forceful and beautifully illustrated articles have done, and are still doing, so much for the cause we all have at heart; Mr. S. H. Prater, the Society's curator, who twenty years ago designed and conducted the notable series, 'The Wild Animals of the Indian Empire and the problem of their Preservation'; the Conservators of Forests and other experts who contributed to that series; Sir Reginald Spence who, during his term of office as honorary secretary and editor did so much for wild life (and fisheries); Mr. Sálím Ali who has done so much particularly in the matter of nature study; and Lieut.-Col. R. W. Burton who wrote the pamphlet of 1948 and the supplement to it which were widely distributed by the Society as related in the Honorary Secretary's Report in Vol. 47, p. 792 (1949), and who contributed from time to time other papers on the subject.

### 1952 AND A CENTRAL BOARD FOR WILD LIFE

After an interval of years there arrived in 1952 a revival of activity on the part of the Government of India, and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture Resolution of April 4th 1952 constituted and appointed a Central Board for Wild Life (now 'Indian Board for Wild Life') with its functions defined and terms of business arranged.

The first meeting of the Board assembled at Mysore from the November 25th to the 1st of December 1952 under the chairmanship of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, who observed in his Inaugural Address how fortunate it is that we have as Vice-Chairmen K. S. Dharmakumarsinhji of Bhavnagar and Shri M. D. Chaturvedi, the Inspector-General of Forests, and remarked upon the strength and inspiration afforded by the distinguished body of naturalists, conservationists and experienced officers of the various Forest Departments of the different States of India who are now serving

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<sup>1</sup> Text of the farewell address delivered at a meeting of members of the Bombay Natural History Society on April 15, 1953.

on the Board. The inclusion of a number of officials and non-officials raised the twelve members appointed by the original Resolution to close upon forty at this first session. It is understood that the 23 recommendations of the Board have been accepted by the Government with the single exception that the matter of the declaration of the Indian Board for Wild Life as an institution of national importance is held over just now for reasons of legislative convenience.

#### THE CONFERENCE AT MYSORE

The proof of a conference being in its sequel, it is a good augury that some press notices from New Delhi indicate activity in several respects: for instance, formation of zoological parks near cities and large towns; and the calling for statistics from the States governments regarding their holdings of wild birds and wild animals in their respective areas. The recommendation that the Indian Lion needs another locality besides the Gir Forest is also receiving attention in a practical way.

One of the first results from the constitution of the Board of Control is the compilation at the instance of His Highness of Mysore, and with his financial assistance also, of a volume, 'The Preservation of Wild Life in India—A Compilation' (i-xiii+176 pages and same size as our journal). The genesis of the book is contained in the first paragraph on p. 863 of the *Journal* for August 1952, and the 500 copies which have been printed are being now (April 8th) distributed to persons and institutions in India and abroad, perhaps also to the Press, in accordance with a list prepared by the Secretary of the Indian Board for Wild Life. It is possible that, should there be sufficient demand by others for priced copies, a second printing would be made. This would require the sanction of His Highness of Mysore. The price would probably be Rs. 4-8-0 ex postage and intimation of requirements would be received by the Secretary of the Board, who is also Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Food and Agricultural Ministry, New Delhi.

The Foreword by Mr. Girja Shankar Bajpai, Governor of Bombay and President of the Bombay Natural History Society, observes that the book brings together in convenient compass the relevant literature on the subject.

#### 'THE PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE IN INDIA—A COMPILATION'

The introduction by the compiler, Lt.-Col. R. W. Burton, states the purpose of the book is to assist the cause of wild life through endeavour to place in readily accessible form before all the committees that will be formed in the States and Unions the principal contents of the various important articles which have been from time to time contributed to the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. There are also important editorials and other papers which greatly aid right knowledge and understanding of the many and varied aspects of this complex question. All these are dealt with in the Summarized Index of the compilation which consists of 102 paragraphs having references and cross references to the reprints contained

within it. Appendix 'A' of the compilation gives a summary of the speeches delivered at the Mysore meeting, and Appendix 'B' prints the Resolutions Adopted by the Board at its First Session. The eighty references previously mentioned are listed at pages 116-119 of the compilation. Among the List of Contents is reference to 'The Book of Indian Animals' by S. H. Prater (Rs. 16 to non-members) a copy of which should be with all who have interest in the wild animals of India, and is essential to the secretaries of all wild life boards and committees:

While all the paragraphs of the Summarized Index are more or less important as concerned with the past and present situation of many of the wild birds and wild animals and the general question of their preservation, there are some which call for particular mention.

### SOME PRESENT DAY PROBLEMS

All of us know that *afforestation* is one of the most pressing needs of this sub-continent at the present time. In his address to the Indian Science Congress at Allahabad in 1949 Mr. M. S. Randhawa observed that nature conservation and conservation of soil, forests, grass-land and water are intimately connected, and just as fundamental to agriculture, horticulture, forestry, game preservation, fisheries, etc., as it is to the management of National Parks. Readers of the *Journal* will have in mind Mr. Randhawa's illuminating article on the progressive desiccation of northern India and the effect this has had, and is still having, on wild life in those parts; and will wholly agree with his urge that re-afforestation is the sovereign remedy to check soil erosion, and 'Plant More Trees' should be our slogan for the next many decades.

Just as afforestation favourably affects wild life so is disafforestation its deadly enemy. A sub-leader in *The Mail*, Madras, of October 16th 1952 clearly demonstrates how those same forces of destruction which brought about the desiccation of northern India and the Siwaliks are at this very time being practised by the government and the people of several named taluks in the Madras State; and it is well-known that this same process is at work in other parts of country also. In this connection it can be fittingly quoted, 'Many are the paths along which Man proceeds to destruction though his main object is his own survival.' Of the 19,000 square miles of forests in the Madras State there are 16,000 open to grazing.

Mr. A. A. Dunbar Brander has advocated as a remedial measure, 'Establishing associations for the protection of wild life, and rousing educated public opinion, and enlisting influential men as members of such societies.' The long established Nilgiri Game Association is a well-known example of what can be effected through good and continued organization. There are also successful associations of the kind in northern Bengal. The recently constituted Sportsmen's Club of Orissa (1949), should it have had continued success, and be taken as a model by other States and Unions, should result in largely aiding the functions of the Indian and other boards of control for wild life throughout India.

## CONSERVATION, CONTROL, FOREST STAFF, GAME FUND, REAL INTEREST

Regarding conservation and control it is well expressed by the editorial of the May 1952 *Bulletin of the I.U.P.N.* that, 'More and more game will only be able to survive in so far as Man himself is both able and willing to set a limit to killing.' That is one of the important functions of the Boards and Committees—to set a limit to killing. Theodore Hubback declared, 'I think we may claim that the chief object of the conservation of wild life must be to prevent the disappearance of species'. Phythian-Adams correctly states, 'Wild life is a very real national asset and no one can object to all reasonable steps being taken for its preservation.' One of the main difficulties in preservation and protection of wild life is that of enforcement. One principal remedy is increase of forest staff, and this would be possible were a Game Fund established in all States and Unions, and at the Centre also. The case for the Game Fund is plainly and logically stated in paragraph 31 of the Summarized Index.

Real interest denotes considerably more than casual interest, and has been frequently urged as an essential to the preservation of wild life. It is bound up with public opinion and with nature study. 'In power politics a well informed public opinion is the world's greatest security. So also in regard to wild life, real and correctly informed interest on the part of the public is its greatest protection.' There is urgent need in India for creating and stimulating a real interest in the wild life of the country which also means the protection of the forests—and not only by the governments. Besides the governments the editors and journalists too have a duty in this matter. An essential to enable Boards of Control and Committees give effect to function 3 (iii)—'to promote public interest in wild life and the need for its preservation in harmony with natural and human environment'—is the widest publicity through government channels and the newspapers; and an imperative help is the whole-hearted aid by editors and journalists both in the papers and periodicals in English and in the regional languages also. No less a person than the Vice-President of the Republic of India has declared (16-9-52), 'It is the duty of the Press to produce the climate of opinion which would help the Government achieve its objectives.'

## WHAT IS MEANT BY 'WILD LIFE?'

'Wild life' at the present juncture, means, in most of the literature, the game birds and the larger animals. Game is part of the natural heritage of the country which it is incumbent on the State and on the present generation to preserve for posterity. But unless active and continued, and continual, steps are taken what will be the result? Nothing but the gradual elimination of the game birds and the larger animals of the country. Once it is gone no efforts of mankind can restore it. In many parts of the country there are people of middle age who have seen the disappearance of species within the period of their lives. The beauty and interest of the creatures they have seen will not be known to their descendants. In his Foreword to this recent compilation our Society's President very

rightly points out how lifeless and wanting in interest will be our forests when the game has gone.

The value of wild life is considerable; and this apart from certain considerations of science which could be mentioned. Prominent among the magnets for attracting tourists in India is the spectacle of wild life and its abundant interest for all classes of sportsmen and sightseers. Who can gainsay that?

#### ZOOLOGICAL AND OTHER PARKS

The formation of Zoological Parks in the vicinity of all the cities and larger towns in India is one of the suggestions in the 'Delhi Memorandum'. The Chairman of the Indian Wild Life Board in his final speech on December 1, 1952, said that this proposal deserves earnest consideration at the hands of the public and the several governments. The proposal is covered by Resolution No. 6 of the Board. A New Delhi press note of date March 5, 1953, announces the intended establishment of such a park between the Purana Kila and Humayun's Tomb. This, it is said, has the backing of the Prime Minister of India; and the Planning Commission so much to the fore at the present time has, it is stated, provisions for such parks throughout the country.

In the 'Delhi Memorandum' the suggestion is also made that places of religious pilgrimage such as Mount Abu, Mandu, Parasnath and the like should be formed into dual purpose parks; that is, parks both for protection of religious monuments and historic buildings and the wild life that is around them. In and around these places, being annually visited by millions of the people, much could be done to bring home to them the variety and beauty of the wild life that is their heritage from the past. They would learn and realise that it is their duty to pass to their descendants all that is now theirs to use and enjoy.

The management of India's Wild Life National Parks and Sanctuaries has been dealt with by Mr. E. P. Gee in our December 1952 *Journal*. The Compilation, here referred to, treats of these matters in detail; and in regard to parks of other kinds also—Peoples' Parks, Dual Purpose Parks and Zoological Parks.

#### TRADE, NETTING, POACHING AND SPORTSMANSHIP

An essential for the preservation of game is the prevention of its commercialization. Resolution 10 adopted by the Board of Control recommends that the netting of wild animals and birds should be stopped during 'close' seasons. This, if enforced, will be a something against the trappers and snarers. Those who have good knowledge of the question will realise how very difficult effective enforcement will be. The close season from February 15th to the end of September should protect all areas outside the forests. The 1938 U.P. Forest Department Schedule of close time for netting might with advantage be adopted by all States and Unions.

A measure which is essential in respect to trade is to recognize that flesh of wild animals and birds is not in these days necessary to human existence. Legislation is necessary to prohibit offering for sale, possessing for sale, or marketing in any way the hides, horns, flesh of any indigenous wild birds, or wild animals throughout the year. What possible objection can there be on religious or other grounds to a general law throughout the country to that effect? If half measures only are adopted the wild animals and birds now slaughtered for gain will gradually vanish. It can be said that the trade will, in course of time, put an end to itself through the extermination of all the creatures which support it!

There are two powerful enemies to wild life which need to be dealt with (1) Poaching through use of the motor vehicle, (2) Poaching through use of the electric torch. Unless these two forces of destruction are halted the larger wild life of India is doomed. Those shocking predators, the 'Mighty Jeep' and its many relatives are at work in many parts of India during the evenings and nights of most months in the year. The Game Laws and Rules should conform with the Excise Laws and give power to the convicting courts to order confiscation of any vehicle used to contravene the laws and rules. Why not? Unless this step is taken poaching through use of the motor vehicle will continue. Other countries have faced the facts; India should do the same.

In his speech at the final session, the Union Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh, declared that 'we must inculcate a spirit of sportsmanship into our people'. That has reference to other aspects of shooting than the use of the motor vehicle at night.

The speeches delivered at the Mysore Session (Appendix 'A' of the Compilation) have in them much of interest, instruction and guidance.

#### WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

The foregoing is of the past and the present. What of the future? Most of us have more or less knowledge of what is being done in Bombay to guide and instruct the youth of to-day in nature study. Outside Bombay and in the rest of the country what is being done to educate the children in this respect? Nature study forms a part of the curriculum of primary and secondary schools. Is there a sufficient trained teaching staff? It is feared that the teaching staff are handicapped by being unfamiliar with their subject. Have they in sufficient quantity the necessary suitable books, charts, literature, lantern slides and so on? Some thirty years ago it was authoritatively stated that the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have an unparalleled opportunity for arousing an interest and an active love of Nature in children. Is that great organization doing anything in this important matter?

It is a truism to say that the youth of to-day must be the conservationists of to-morrow. In 1930 the Governor of Bombay said that we should aim at teaching the children the value of wild life; in 1949 the Governor of Ceylon declared there is need for propaganda

and education among the younger children in the schools to convince them that they will, and must be the future custodians of wild life.

Unless in their youth the children of the present generation are properly instructed how are they going to be any better than the past and present generations which have brought the wild life and the forests of this country to their present parlous state?

In some countries good work is being done in this matter of instruction of the children. Apart from European countries the movement has advanced in West Africa, in Uganda and Northern Rhodesia, to mention only a few. It is recognised that small game and birds have an educational value for nature study which is encouraged as much as possible in schools. Roads and rest camp accommodation is providing opportunities for school children to visit Reserves, and the heavy booking during the school holidays shows that advantage is being taken of the facilities provided.

At the present time—1953—the I.U.P.N. is making considerable efforts in the direction of education of the youth. Special lessons for the use of educators and of teachers and pupils in primary and secondary schools of a number of countries are being issued. 'In spite of its importance to mankind the theme of these lessons is little known or totally ignored by contemporary nations,' writes the Secretary-General. So India is not the only country apathetic in this vital matter. In the nature study movement lies the real interest that is the true protection of wild life and the forests of the future.

#### APPENDIX 'A'

List of references printed in the book, 'The Preservation of Wild Life—A Compendium' compiled and written by Lt.-Col. R. W. Burton and published in March 1953 with the financial assistance of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, Chairman of the Indian Board for Wild Life.

##### 1. The Wild Animals of India and the Problem of Their Preservation.

- (a) Introductory Survey of the Indian Empire and the Problem.

By S. H. Prater, O.B.E., C.M.Z.S., Curator, Bombay Natural History Society.

- (b) The Central Provinces (Madhya Pradesh).

By A. A. Dunbar Brander, Late Conservator of Forests, Central Provinces. [Vol. 36 (4); 1933].

- (c) The Bombay Presidency (Bombay State).

By G. Monteith, I.C.S. [Vol. 36 (4); 1933].

- (d) Assam.

By A. J. W. Milroy, Conservator of Forests, Assam. [Vol. 37 (1); 1934].

- (e) The United Provinces (Uttar Pradesh).  
By F. W. Champion, Deputy Conservator of Forests.  
United Provinces [Vol. 37 (1); 1934].
- (f) The Madras Presidency (Madras State).  
By R. D. Richmond, I.F.S. (Retd.). [Vol. 38 (2);  
1935].
- (g) Comments on Mr. Richmond's Note.  
By R. C. Morris, F.Z.S. [Vol. 38 (2); 1935].
- (h) Mysore State.  
By Major (Lt.-Col.) E. G. Phythian-Adams, O.B.E.,  
F.Z.S. [Vol. 38 (2); 1935].
- (i) Hyderabad State.  
By Sálím A. Ali, M.B.O.U. [Vol. 38 (2); 1935].
2. Principles of Wild Life Conservation.  
By Theodore Hubback, F.Z.S. [Vol. 40: 100-111 (1938)].
  3. Wild Life Preservation in India—India's Vanishing Asset.  
By Lt.-Col. R. W. Burton. [Vol. 47: 602-622 (1948)].
  4. Preservation of Wild Life in India—Supplement to the above.  
By Lt.-Col. R. W. Burton, I.A. (Retd.) [Vol. 48: 290-299  
(1949)].
  5. Wild Life Preservation—Birds.  
By Lt.-Col. R. W. Burton, I.A. (Retd.) [Vol. 47: 778-780  
(1948)].
  6. Preservation of Wild Life.  
By M. D. Chaturvedi, B.Sc. (Oxon), I.F.S., Chief Conservator  
of Forests, and now Inspector-General of Forests and  
Vice-Chairman of the Indian Board for Wild Life. With  
Comment by Lt.-Col. R. W. Burton, I.A. [Vol. 48: 588-  
591 (1949)].
  7. Nature Conservation, National Parks and Bio-aesthetic Plan-  
ning in India (An Address to the Section of Botany, 36th  
Indian Science Congress, Allahabad, 1949). (abridged.)  
By M. S. Randhawa, I.C.S., M.Sc., F.N.I., Deputy Com-  
missioner, Ambala (E. Punjab).
  8. A Memorandum (42 paragraphs) dated 16th October 1950 sub-  
mitted by Lt.-Col. R. W. Burton, to the Sub-Committee to  
be assembled at New Delhi to examine and suggest ways  
and means for setting up National Parks and Sanctuaries  
in India.
  9. Editorials: *The Journal of the Bombay Natural History  
Society*. Game Preservation in India. [Vol. 32: 359-365  
(1927)].
  10. Jungle Memories.  
By Major (Lt.-Col.) E. G. Phythian-Adams, O.B.E., F.Z.S.,  
I.A. (Retd.) 'Conservation' at pp. 467-468, Vol. 50 (1952).



## APPENDIX ' B '

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CENTRAL BOARD FOR WILD LIFE AT ITS FIRST SESSION HELD IN MYSORE FROM NOVEMBER 25TH TO DECEMBER 1ST, 1952.

1. The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that its name be changed to 'Indian Board for Wild Life', so as to specify its precise territorial limits for international purpose. Name

2. Whereas India's heritage of wild life is fast becoming a vanishing asset in respect of some of the country's notable animals, such as, lion, rhinoceros, tragopan, cheetah, etc., Declara-  
tion of the  
Central  
Board for  
Wild life as  
an institu-  
tion of na-  
tional im-  
portance.

Whereas the preservation of the fauna of India and the prevention of the extinction of any species is a matter of great national importance, and

Whereas protection in balance with natural and human environment are also matters of urgent national importance,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends to the Government of India that, despite the existence

(i) To devise ways and means for the conservation and control of wild life through co-ordinated legislative and practical measures, with particular reference to seasonal and regional closures and declaration of certain species of animals as 'protected' animals and prevention of indiscriminate killing;

(ii) to sponsor the setting up of national parks, sanctuaries and zoological gardens;

(iii) to promote public interest in wild life and the need for its preservation in harmony with natural and human environment;

(iv) to advise Government on policy in respect of export of living animals, trophies, skins, furs, feathers and other wild life products;

(v) to prevent cruelty to birds and beasts caught alive with or without injury; and

(vi) to perform such other functions as are germane to the purpose for which the Board has been constituted.

of entry 20 'Protection of wild animals and birds' in List II (State List) of the seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, the Central Board for Wild Life, with the marginally noted functions assigned to it under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture Resolution F. 7-110-51-R of the 4th April 1952 be declared by Parliament by Law to be an institution of national importance as envisaged in items 62 and 64 of List I—Union List—of the VII Schedule to the Constitution more specially as the proper exercise of the functions of the Board will involve recourse to action under one or more of the following entries in the Union and concurrent Legislative Lists:—

List I—item 5. Arms, firearms, ammunition and explosives.

List I—item 13. Participation in the international conferences, associations and other bodies and implementing of decisions made thereat, e.g., the International Union for the Protection of Nature.

List I—item 41. Trade and commerce with foreign countries; import and export across customs frontiers—in so far as living animals, trophies, skins, furs, feathers and other wild life products are concerned.

List I—item 42. Inter-State Trade and Commerce with respect to matters specified against the preceding entry (No. 41).

List I—item 81. (Union List) Inter-State migration (of wild life).

List III—item 17. (Concurrent List) Prevention of cruelty to animals.

List III—item 29. (Concurrent List) Prevention of the extension from one State to another of infectious or contagious diseases or pests affecting men, animals or plants.

List III—item 33. (Concurrent List) Trade and Commerce in and the production, supply and distribution of the products of industries where the control of such industries by the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest.

[Sub-Section (2) of Article 246 enables Parliament to make laws with reference to any of the matters enumerated in List III.]

A m e n d -  
ment of the  
constitution  
of the Cen-  
tral Board  
for Wild Life.

3. Whereas the constitution of the Central Board for Wild Life set up by the Government of India requires elaboration and amplification with a view to devising ways and means for the proper fulfilment of its aims and objects,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends :—

(a) that each State Government should be requested to set up a State Wild Life Board consisting of representatives of various organisations and interests to deal with the day-to-day administration of local Wild Life problems.

*Note* :—The co-ordination of the activities of the State Boards will be effected through the Central Board for Wild Life.

(b) that Honorary Regional Secretaries should be appointed as the Board's representatives to cover on its behalf the various regions in India.

*Note* :—Appointments of Honorary Regional Secretaries will be made by the Government of India and duly notified in the Gazette of India. Each Regional Secretary will maintain liaison between the Central Board and the State Boards. It will be necessary to make provision for the travelling allowance of the Regional Secretaries for the journeys performed by them in their respective regions in the discharge of their duties assigned to them by the Board.

(c) that Dr. S. L. Hora, Director, Zoological Survey of India, and President, National Institute of Sciences, India, should be appointed as the Honorary Secretary-General of the Board.

(d) that for the day-to-day administration, an Executive Committee consisting of the following be constituted :—

The Non-official Vice-Chairman. (Chairman)

The Regional Secretaries.

The Secretary-General.

The Secretary of the Central Board. (Secretary)

*Note* :—The Executive Committee will be vested by the Board with authority to function on its behalf in the disposal of day-to-day business.

(e) that the Constitution of the Board should be so amended as to cover the above recommendations.

Executive  
Committee.

4. Whereas it is necessary to provide the Executive Committee of the Board with authority to carry on the day-to-day business of the Board and to take action on its behalf while the Board is not in session,

The Central Board for Wild Life resolves:—

(a) that the Executive Committee is vested with full powers to take necessary action in pursuance of the objects of the Board to deal with the day-to-day business of the Board and to address the Central Government and other authorities on various matters concerning the business of the Board ;

(b) that the Executive Committee will transact its business by circulation as far as possible and will meet at least once in 6 months ;

(c) that the Executive Committee will frame bye-laws for the disposal of its own business as well as the business of the Board subject to the ratification of the Board ;

(d) that the proceedings of the Executive Committee shall be circulated to the Members of the Board in the form of periodical bulletins ;

(e) that in the event of a decision to be taken in respect of a State, the representative of the State concerned on the Board shall be co-opted ; and

(f) that the Executive Committee is authorised to make verbal alterations in the language of the resolution to be presented to Government.

The Central Board for Wild Life resolves:—

5. that its grateful appreciation of the generous arrangements made for holding its inaugural session at Mysore should be conveyed to the Government of Mysore. Thanks to  
Mysore Gov-  
ernment.

In particular, the Board would like to convey its gratitude to His Highness the Rajpramukh for his unstinted hospitality and for the interest he has taken in the proceedings of the session.

The Board also acknowledges with thanks the assistance rendered by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore, and his staff in organizing visits to various institutions and making arrangements for the delegates.

6. Whereas the preservation of nature in its unspoiled state is deemed essential for its educative and aesthetic value ;

Whereas wild life in India is progressively diminishing,

Whereas some of the wild animals have already become extinct or are on the verge of extinction, and

Whereas the maintenance of an equilibrium between the vegetable kingdom and the animal kingdom and among the animals themselves is of importance to mankind,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that the attention of the State governments should be drawn to the need for :—

(a) the creation of National Parks in conformity with the general objectives laid down by the International Union for the Protection of Nature and affiliated bodies,

provided that should a State create a National Park, the advice of the Central Board for Wild Life will be taken to ensure its national character.

*Note* :—The term ' National Park ' for this purpose would generally denote an area dedicated by statute for all time, to conserve the scenery

Protection  
of Nature  
and Wild  
Life.

and natural and historical objects of national significance, to conserve wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations, with such modifications as local conditions may demand.

(b) the creation of Wild Life Sanctuaries (or Wild Life Refuges) of such size and in such numbers which the needs for the preservation of wild life, more particularly of the species which have become scarce or which are threatened with extinction, may demand.

*Note*:—1. The expression ' Wild Life Sanctuary ' shall denote an area constituted by the competent authority in which killing, hunting, shooting or capturing of any species of bird or animal is prohibited except by or under the control of the highest authority in the department responsible for the management of the Sanctuary. The boundaries and character of such a sanctuary will be kept sacrosanct as far as possible. Such sanctuaries should be made accessible to visitors.

2. While the management of sanctuaries does not involve suspension or restriction of normal forest operations, it would be generally desirable to set apart an area of 1 to about 25 square miles within a sanctuary where such operations may not be carried out, to ensure the nursing up of wild life undisturbed by human activities. Such sacrosanct areas may be declared as '*Abhayaranya*' i.e., a forest where animals could roam about without fear of man. Such a sanctuary within a sanctuary would also ensure the preservation of plant life unspoiled and undisturbed.

3. In the management of sanctuaries, control should be exercised over elements adverse to the maintenance of wild life, including destruction of vermin and predators. In the case of any difficulty, expert advice may be obtained from the Central Board for Wild Life.

4. In the event of a sanctuary being located in one State contiguous to a sanctuary in another State, the desirable co-ordination may be effected through the Central Board for Wild Life.

(c) imposing restrictions on the issue of shooting permits and by the prohibition of shooting in State Forests of a particular species for such periods as may be deemed necessary in order to attain the objectives in regard to the preservation of wild life.

*Note*:—Special ' preservation plots ' may be constituted where plants of medicinal value or species of special botanical interest may need to be preserved along with or without wild life.

(d) encouraging members of the public interested in wild life to assist in the preservation of wild life by appointing them as Honorary Wild Life Officers who will perform the duties and enjoy the powers and privileges of Forest Officers in respect of preservation of wild life delegated to them.

*Note*:—All the members of the Central and the State Wild Life Boards as well as Honorary Wild Life Officers should be issued with a badge of office and an identity card in consultation with the Central Board for Wild Life.

(e) the setting up of zoological parks for the purpose of entertainment, recreation and study of animal life.

*Note 1*:—These parks should provide ideal conditions for rescuing and multiplying any species on the verge of extinction.

2. A Zoological Park is different from a zoological garden, inasmuch as it provides space and secures conditions similar to those in the natural habitats for the housing of animals, which are not possible in zoological gardens.

(f) modelling the administration of zoological gardens of the various States along the lines of Alipore Zoo, Calcutta.

*Note*:—The maintenance of zoos at a high standard of efficiency is desirable, and advice in this respect may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary-General of the Central Board for Wild Life.

(g) declaring the following species as protected animals:—

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (i) Indian Lion              | (viii) Musk Deer              |
| (ii) Snow Leopard            | (ix) Brow-antlered Deer       |
| (iii) Clouded Leopard        | (x) Pigmy Hog                 |
| (iv) Cheetah                 | (xi) Great Indian Bustard     |
| (v) Rhinoceros (all species) | (xii) Pink-headed Duck        |
| (vi) The Indian Wild Ass     | (xiii) White-winged Wood Duck |
| (vii) Kashmir Stag           |                               |

*Note*:—This list is illustrative and not exhaustive and may have to be added to from time to time to suit local conditions. Legislation should be enacted where necessary to secure complete protection of these animals and birds which are on the verge of extinction.

7. Whereas the Indian lion, which not long ago was distributed throughout north-west India, Protection of the Lion.

Whereas the Indian lion has now receded to the confines of Gir Forest in Kathiawar Peninsula, and whereas the Indian lion is an animal of national importance requiring rigorous protection,

The Central Board for Wild Life

Views with great alarm the dangers attendant upon concentrating the remnant lions in a single locality and not immune from epidemic and other unforeseen calamities;

Recommends that an additional locality as a Sanctuary for the lions in a suitable area should be developed. In the selection of this locality, the original range and environment of the lion shall be taken into consideration.

And Requests that the attention of the Government of Saurashtra should be invited to the need for associating the Central Board for Wild Life in the management of the lions of the Gir Forest.

8. Whereas unrestricted trading in trophies, skins, furs, feathers and flesh is detrimental to the wild life resources of the country, Trading in Trophies, Skins, Furs, Feathers and Flesh.

The Central Board for Wild Life Recommends:—

(a) that the export of trophies, as defined in the Bombay Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act 1951 (xxiv of 1951) should be prohibited except in cases which are covered by a *Certificate of Ownership* issued by the prescribed authority of the Central or State Governments such as Forest or Revenue Officers, etc. or whose ownership is otherwise established.

*Note* :— This provision will not apply to the re-export of trophies sent to India for finishing on the production of a certificate of the owner.

(b) that legislative control of internal trade in trophies should, for the present, await the experience to be gained in the Bombay State where legislation in this respect is being brought into force shortly,

(c) that, in the meanwhile, in order to discourage trading in trophies inside the country and to prohibit (a) the netting of birds and animals during 'close' periods, (b) their sale, (c) the sale of venison, (d) the sale of flesh and parts of other wild animals, the Government of India should invite the attention of the State Governments to the advisability of enforcing the provisions of Act VIII of 1912, as amended from time to time, or such other legislation as might have been enacted or extended for the purpose.

Prevention  
of cruelty to  
animals.

9. Whereas in the interests of wild life, and for humane reasons, it is necessary to prevent cruelty to animals and birds during captivity and transit,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that the cooperation of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (S.P.C.A.) should be sought in this connection and that Honorary Wild Life Officers in every centre be requested to report all cases of cruelty to animals and birds in captivity and during transit.

Netting of  
wild birds  
and animals.

10. Whereas extensive netting of wild animals and birds is prejudicial to the maintenance of the Balance of Nature and is detrimental to the wild life of the country,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that the netting of wild animals and birds should be stopped during 'close' seasons and that no exemptions should be permitted on grounds of tribal or caste customs, livelihood, profession or usage.

Export and  
Import of  
living animals  
and birds.

11. Whereas the unrestricted export of living animals and birds tends to deplete the fauna of the country, and

Whereas the unrestricted import of animals and birds is not in the interest of local fauna,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends :—

(a) that the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports be requested to fix the annual limits for the *export* of each valuable species of wild life to zoos, scientific institutions and circuses outside India on the recommendation of the Secretary-General of the Board,

(b) that all requests for *imports* of living specimens of wild life by zoos, scientific institutions and circuses in India should be routed through the Honorary Secretary-General of the Board,

(c) that the *excise duty* to be levied on the export of animals for circuses should be double the duty levied on animals intended for *bona fide* zoos and scientific institutions,

provided that gifts and exchanges between *bona fide* zoos be exempt from such duties,

(d) that the State Governments be requested to give priority to the requirements of zoos in India in respect of species of wild life over the requirements of foreign zoos,

provided that the restrictions contemplated in the aforesaid clauses shall not apply to exports of species classified as 'vermin'.

*Note*:—The phrase 'vermin' is defined in the Bombay Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act (XXIV of 1951) as 'any animal or bird specified in Schedule I and includes any animal or bird declared to be vermin under Section 18'.

12. Whereas owing to lack of uniformity in the periods prescribed by different State Governments as 'close' seasons, it is difficult for the Transport Authorities to keep a check on 'close' season offences, 'Close' Season.

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that movements of living birds be prohibited from April 1st to September 30th which, for all practical purposes, will be treated as 'close' season for purposes of transport.

*Note*:—This restriction will not apply to movements for *bona fide* purposes, e.g., exchange of specimens by zoos and transport of birds by circuses, etc.

13. Whereas it is essential for the Central Board to maintain statistics of species of wild life, Compilation of statistics.

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that all State Governments be requested to furnish information on the following points to its Secretary-General:—

- (a) surplus species held by their zoos for disposal,
- (b) species required by their zoos, and
- (c) animals that can be captured in their forests.

14. Whereas it is necessary to focus attention on problems of educating the public on the value of wild life, Symposiums

Whereas zoos and national parks are institutions for such education,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that symposiums should be held at an early date on the needs and requirements of

- (a) Indian Zoos and
- (b) management of National Parks and Sanctuaries so as to assist in the formulation of policies in regard to the maintenance of wild life exhibits in the Zoos and the management of National Parks and Sanctuaries.

15. Whereas it is necessary to secure public co-operation in the enforcement of measures for the protection of wild life, Co-operation of public in enforcement of measures for the protection of Wild Life.

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends:—

- (a) that members of the public interested in Nature should be invited to become *Honorary Correspondents* to the Board in matters relating to wild life; and
- (b) that members of the Board should be appointed as *Honorary Wild Life Officers* on behalf of the Board in respect of the resolutions and recommendations passed and such instructions as may be issued from time to time by the Board.

Wild Life  
Legislation.

16. Whereas it is necessary to preserve wild life in the country as a whole.

Whereas the existing machinery for the protection of wild life in areas outside the purview of the Indian Forest Act XVI of 1927 or adaptations thereof, is inadequate, and

Whereas the protection afforded to wild life in areas within the purview of the Indian Forest Act XVI of 1927, or adaptations thereof, requires strengthening,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends :—

(a) that necessary legislation be enacted at an early date by the Centre or the States as the case may be.

*Note* :—The attention of State governments is invited to the existing legislation for the protection of wild life in various States and, in particular, to the ' Bombay Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, Act No. XXIV of 1951 ' and the Rules framed thereunder.

'Close' sea-  
sons, illicit  
shooting,  
etc.

17. Whereas there is reason to believe that there is need for the amendment of existing ' close ' seasons observed in respect of birds and animals,

Whereas the list of animals and birds now treated as vermin needs re-examination with a view to limiting it to only those animals and birds which should be kept in check,

Whereas in some parts of the country there is wholesale destruction of wild life with the help of dogs,

Whereas shooting from vehicles, with or without blinding spot or head lights, shooting with torches, shooting over salt licks and water holes, destroying animals by using poisons, explosives and poisoned weapons, catching animals and birds by nets, traps, pits, snares, etc., and killing animals by driving them in snow or by fire require to be discouraged in the interests of the preservation of wild life, and

Whereas the use of buck-shot wounds rather than kills animals,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends :—

(a) that States do review, in consultation with the Central Board for Wild Life, and, if possible with their contiguous States, their ' close ' seasons for the various animals and birds to be protected,

(b) that States should re-examine their lists of ' vermin ' from time to time to ensure that only harmful species are so classified, and

(c) that the attention of State governments be invited to the urgent need for devising ways and means and of adopting such measures, including enactment of legislation, to discourage if not to prohibit, these practices in the interests of wild life.

Crop pro-  
tection guns.

18. Whereas indiscriminate slaughter of wild life is often indulged in with the aid of guns ostensibly held for crop protection,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends :—

(a) that ways and means be devised to ensure that guns issued for crop protection are used only for the protection of standing crops and that the use of such guns for hunting or shooting should be prohibited unless the licensee secures such other licences as are prescribed,



(b) that the quantity and type of ammunition available to the holders of such guns should be restricted by the licensing authorities to such as is required for protection of crops only.

*Note* :—Licences should be generally issued for single-barrel guns only.

19. Whereas much destruction of wild life goes on in areas contiguous to Sanctuaries, and

Buffer Belts around Sanctuaries.

Whereas cattle-borne diseases are spread in such sanctuaries by domestic cattle from the surrounding areas,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that buffer belts of sufficient width be declared around all sanctuaries within which no shooting, other than that required for legitimate crop protection, will be permitted and within which no professional graziers will be allowed to establish their cattle-pens.

20. Whereas many preventable cattle-borne diseases among herbivorous wild animals result from contact with infected domestic cattle in the neighbourhood of ' forests ' ,

Inoculation against cattle-borne diseases.

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that State governments be requested to inoculate systematically and periodically domestic cattle in the neighbourhood of national parks, sanctuaries and reserves where and when necessary.

21. Whereas insufficient use is being made at present of the existing facilities of publicity afforded by the Press, Screen and Radio, for wild life protection,

Publicity.

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends :—

(a) that adequate publicity material be issued from time to time by the respective Central and State Publicity Departments in close collaboration with Forest Departments and other organizations,

(b) that enthusiasts be approached to give publicity to wild life,

(c) that documentary films dealing with various aspects of wild life be produced by Governments in consultation with the Central or State Boards for Wild Life for exhibition in both urban and rural areas,

(d) that amateur cinema-photography of wild life be encouraged, and (e) that the All-India Radio be requested to afford special facilities for wild life broadcasts.

22. Whereas there is general lack of knowledge regarding conservation of nature and the value of wild life, and

Education.

Whereas it is essential to educate public opinion in matters of wild life,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that special steps be taken to popularise wild life by introducing stories in school text-books, by producing attractive charts, by organising special lectures and through the establishment of zoos and zoological parks in the neighbourhood of large cities.

Liaison.

23. Whereas for the purposes of education and publicity co-ordination of such departments as Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture, Scientific Research, Transportation (Tourist), and Information and Broadcasting is essential,

The Central Board for Wild Life recommends that steps be taken through the Central and State Wild Life Boards to co-ordinate the activities of all connected departments in matters of management, publicity and education concerning wild life.